

As the administration moved toward ending the CPA and transferring sovereignty back to the Iraqi people through its interim government, it became clear that it was important to maintain oversight of the multiagency reconstruction effort underway in Iraq. In Public Law 108-375, the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005, Congress decided to redesignate the CPA IG as the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, or SIGIR, with responsibility for reviewing programs funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

The law provided, uniquely at the time, that the SIGIR report directly to both the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, and that its quarterly reports be sent directly to the Congress.

As the reconstruction effort for Iraq grew in complexity Congress asked SIGIR to review additional funding streams; it is now responsible for reviewing "all funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Iraq."

Since SIGIR reviews reconstruction funds expended by all agencies, it can compare the effectiveness of different agencies' practices and approaches to related problems. In addition, the frequent reorganizations of the reconstruction effort and the widespread pattern of having some agencies carry out work on behalf of others has made cross-agency reviews critical to providing accountability for expenditures. SIGIR has been able to provide precisely that type of cross-agency scrutiny.

SIGIR's productivity is notable. It has submitted 23 quarterly reports to Congress and published 4 "lessons learned" reports, including the comprehensive account entitled "Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience." It has issued 155 audit reports, 159 project assessments, inspections, and 96 limited onsite assessments.

SIGIR's staff in Baghdad and Arlington, VA, produces timely, useful reporting to program managers, senior Department leadership, and Congress. Its quarterly reports present a comprehensive, closely documented, snapshot of the reconstruction effort and conditions on the ground to provide context for understanding progress, or lack of progress, in Iraq's reconstruction. In recent quarters, reports have included province-by-province descriptions of the status of reconstruction and the pace of political change. The audit and inspections groups work in "real time," so that managers can improve processes quickly, often before reports are formally published.

SIGIR's reviews have been extremely useful to both the administration and Congress in assessing the many challenges of the reconstruction. The performance by the SIGIR office has also been recognized by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Effi-

ciency, formerly the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency, PCIE, for demonstrating integrity, determination and courage in providing independent oversight and unbiased review of U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and for exemplifying the highest ideals of government services as envisioned by the tenets of the Inspector General Act.

SIGIR's auditors and investigators carry out their work under dangerous and difficult circumstances. Its employees in Baghdad, in addition to being separated from their families and living under difficult conditions, are subject to considerable physical danger. Five have been wounded by indirect fire. Today I would especially like to pay tribute to SIGIR auditor Paul Converse, who died of wounds sustained in the Easter 2008 rocket attack on Baghdad's International Zone. Mr. Converse made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

As my colleagues know, the reconstruction effort in Iraq suffered initially from uncoordinated and insufficient planning and has been characterized too often by poor contract oversight. The security situation in Iraq also increased the complexity of executing reconstruction projects. From its audits of specific projects such as the Basrah Children's Hospital and the Mosul Dam, to its broad reviews of thematic issues such as human capital management and contract administration, the SIGIR reports have provided a frank look at, and a better understanding of, the shortcomings, the successes, and the challenges of reconstruction.

So today I salute all the hard-working current and former staff of SIGIR, SIGIR's long-serving Deputy Inspector General, Ginger Cruz, and, of course, Stuart Bowen, who has ably served as the Special Inspector General for 6 years. Their work has been extremely influential on the evolution of reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and undoubtedly will help inform future U.S. relief and reconstruction efforts. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by this Senator.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING ACT

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I rise today to speak about legislation that I introduced on Friday with Senator BINGAMAN—the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009—which would establish permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This bill makes it certain that the funds available in the Land and Water Conservation Fund—LWCF—are not subject to the annual whims of Congress, but instead that these funds are available at a steady, reliable, certain level that will allow us to protect land and water well into our future.

For over 30 years, the LWCF has been used to purchase lands from willing

sellers for the purposes of conservation. It is authorized at a spending level \$900 million per year. However, Congress has rarely approved the full \$900 million, and appropriations have varied widely. The result is a program that sometimes moves forward in fits and starts rather than with a consistent level of investment from year to year.

Even with this situation, the LWCF is an incredibly successful and important program for our land conservation needs. In Montana, the LWCF has funded the acquisition of key treasures such as the Sun Ranch in Madison County and the Iron Mask Ranch in Broadwater County. We have areas all over Montana in the pristine ecosystem of the Rocky Mountain Front that are standing in line, just waiting for LWCF funds to be available.

We cannot afford to wait any longer. We need to take steps today, this Congress, to fix this long-standing problem and establish permanent funding for the LWCF to protect Montana's resources well into the future.

WYOMING FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I wish to recognize the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation's 90 years of service. Since its first meeting, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has advocated for Wyoming farm and ranch families in local, State and Federal policy. The organization has been a leader in advocating for low taxes, less government, multiple use, and most of all private property rights for generations. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation provides organization, resources, and service to our agriculture community.

Among the strengths of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is the organization of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Program. This program provides resources and leadership for men and women beginning their careers in agriculture. The program is laying the foundation for future leaders in Wyoming agriculture and our rural communities.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation serves as a reliable source of agriculture and business information in Wyoming. Many in Wyoming turn to Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation as the source for up-to-date agricultural news. The organization provides timely information and valuable insight into current issues facing Wyoming and America.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members will celebrate 90 years of service at their annual meeting this week in Casper, WY. They will remember the pioneer spirit that brought together farmers and ranchers from Wyoming's counties 90 years ago. The foresight of those early members has allowed the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation to be the leading agriculture organization that it is today.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has led the way to preserve individual

freedoms and expand opportunities in agriculture for 90 years. I recognize this important milestone, and I wish the organization and all of its members future success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK C. ARNOLD

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I wish to recognize the promotion of U.S. Army Reserve BG Mark C. Arnold.

On November 14, 2009, Mark Arnold will be promoted to brigadier general. He has more than 32 years of military service including time served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He was commissioned a distinguished military graduate and holds a bachelor of science degree from Ohio University, my alma mater, and he also holds a master of business administration degree from Cleveland State University.

Brigadier General Arnold began his military career as an infantryman and has completed the airborne course, jumpmaster course, pathfinder course, air assault course, ranger course, special forces qualification course, psychological operations course, civil affairs course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College where he completed his master of strategic studies.

Brigadier General Arnold is presently assigned as the deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve 81st Regional Support Command at Fort Jackson, SC. He is also the president and chief executive officer of GSE, which is a \$500 million multinational manufacturing firm. He has demonstrated that he is a "Warrior-Citizen" who is equally committed to the defense of our great Nation and the advancement of his community. I applaud his commitment to public service as well as his commitment to his community.

The State of Ohio and all Americans congratulate Brigadier General Arnold for his tireless dedicated duty to protect freedom, ensure liberty, and defend the principles of the United States. Leaders like Brigadier General Arnold will ensure the United States will continue to prosper as the world's greatest Nation.

I want to extend congratulations and my sincere regards and best wishes to Brigadier General Arnold and his family in honor of his promotion. •

REMEMBERING MAYOR GEORGE MURRAY SULLIVAN

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, former Anchorage Mayor George Murray Sullivan.

Mayor George Murray Sullivan passed away September 23, 2009, after an extended battle with lung cancer.

Mayor George Sullivan was the embodiment of a true Alaskan. He was born and raised in Valdez, honorably served in our Nation's Army, and assisted with the completion of the only road leading out of our State, the Alaska Highway. As a devoted public servant, Mr. SULLIVAN served in the Alaska Legislature and as mayor of Anchorage. Today, Alaskans are grateful to this remarkable man for his guidance and pioneering spirit.

On behalf of his family and his many friends I ask we honor George Sullivan's memory. I ask his obituary, published September 27, 2009, in the Anchorage Daily News, be printed into the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Anchorage Daily News, Sept. 27, 2009]

Anchorage Mayor George Murray Sullivan, 87, died Sept. 23, 2009, surrounded by his family after a long battle with lung cancer. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Burial will be at the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery. George was born March 31, 1922, to Harvey and Viola Sullivan in Portland, Ore.

He was raised in Valdez with sisters Lillian and Marion, and graduated salutatorian from Valdez High School in 1939. His father Harvey was the U.S. district marshal and mother Viola was the first woman mayor in Alaska. George had a wonderful life as a kid in Valdez, playing many sports, engaging in school activities and helping at the family store. In 1937, at the age of 15, George was hired at the Kennecott Mine, although the hiring age at the time was 16. He was strong and eager, so he was put to work on the tram. He navigated 750-pound ore buckets off the tram and into the grizzly crusher for 10 hours a day, seven days a week. He once estimated that he put in about 17 miles a day on the job. In 1938, George drove trucks for the Alaska Road Commission and hauled equipment and supplies to the workers active in the Richardson Highway construction project.

He worked with the military troops to get the Alaska Highway completed and transported military equipment to the Tanacross airport for Bob Reeve to fly to the outlying bases. In July 1944, George was drafted into the U.S. Army for two years and was stationed at Adak in the Aleutian Islands. He married the love of his life, Margaret Eagan Sullivan, on Dec. 30, 1947, and moved to Nenana. George was the U.S. deputy marshal and Margaret was the U.S. commissioner. Aptly, George would catch the criminals and Margaret would try them. In 1952, George worked for Al Ghezzi's Alaska Freight Lines, trucking supplies to the DEW Line on the first ice road to the North Slope. He worked for Garrison Fast Freight.

In 1955, he was elected to the Fairbanks City Council. George took a job in management with Consolidated Freightways and in 1959 moved the family to Anchorage, where he lived for the next 50 years. In 1964, he was appointed by Gov. Bill Egan to fill a vacant seat in the Alaska State Legislature. He was in Juneau when the 1964 earthquake occurred; Margaret was at home in Anchorage with seven children. George spent many agonizing hours trying to get on a plane home to his family. George finished his term in the Legislature and, in 1965, was elected to the Anchorage City Council. In 1967, he ran a successful race to become Anchorage mayor, a position he would hold for 15 years. Anchorage grew fast during those years,

spurred in large part by the oil boom. In 1975, voters approved the unification of Anchorage's city and borough governments and elected George its mayor. The creation of the Municipality of Anchorage was an incredible undertaking. As mayor, George successfully merged the duplicative departments, boards, utilities, etc., into one government. After unification, the state was awash with money from the oil pipeline revenues. George and his administration had a vision of what Anchorage could become and what was needed to enhance the city's quality of life for its residents. He worked hard to develop what was known as Project '80s.

George lobbied successfully in Juneau and received hundreds of millions of dollars for construction of the Egan Civic and Convention Center, Loussac Library, the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and the Sullivan Sports Arena. This moved Anchorage into being a modern and vibrant community, which enhanced economic and community growth in the Southcentral area. George finished as mayor of Anchorage in 1982. He then worked for Western Airlines as senior vice president. In 1986, he was a founding member of the Sullivan Group, a consulting firm. He also worked as the legislative director for Gov. Steve Cowper. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska in public administration. George was never one to stay still for too long and remained active in community and state boards up until his illness in 2008.

Over the years he was active on the Enstar board, AWWU, state PERS board, Anchorage Senior Center Endowment, TOTE Advisory Board, Military Advisory Board, Anchorage Wellness Court Alumni Group, Alaska Heart Association, Boys and Girls Clubs and many more. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to make Anchorage a little better for those less fortunate or in need. He had a strong faith in the Roman Catholic Church and often assisted at Mass and in the church's organizations, the Knights of Columbus and Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher. He was a member of the Elks Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Pioneers of Alaska. George had an incredible love for the community and worked on many projects to enhance the quality of life for all who called Anchorage home.

He was a true public servant and visionary who strived to make Anchorage a better community for future generations while he was mayor and during his retirement. George's family said: "Dad was blessed with a kind and generous heart. He and Mom gave so much to their family and community. Dad had a wonderful way with people. He was a great Alaskan with an Irish charm and humor that would put people at ease when they met him. He and Mom traveled extensively and held lifelong friendships that spanned the globe. He loved people and never forgot a name or face."

George is survived by his sons, Timothy, Daniel (Lynnette), Kevin, George Jr., Michael and Casey (Paige); and daughters, Colleen (Ted Leonard) and Shannon (Christopher Adams). He is also survived by grandchildren, Tim (Terrill), Conor (Carey), Catherine and Moira Sullivan and their mother, Susan; grandchildren, Kelly, Patrick (Julie) and Erin Sullivan and their mother, Jean; grandchildren, Jennifer Sullivan; Matthew, Adam, Molly and Bridget Glenn; Jared Leonard; Declan and Shane Adams, and Tierney and Parker Sullivan; and six great-grandchildren with one on the way. His is also survived by sisters-in-law, Pat Franklin and Marge Eagan of Fairbanks; and many nieces and nephews. George was preceded in death by his parents, Harvey and Viola Sullivan; sisters, Marion and Lillian; son, Harvey; and Margaret, his wife of 59 years. •